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Boyle (C)







*The Common Purple Vervain.* { Flower.....A  
Seed.....B  
Root.....C

75815

A N  
E S S A Y  
On the NATURE and CURE  
O F  
SCROPHULOUS DISORDERS;

Vulgarly called the  
KING'S EVIL,

DEDUCED FROM  
OBSERVATION and PRACTICE.

THE SEVENTH EDITION.

With Additions, and a great VARIETY of  
CASES and their REMEDIES,

And OCCASIONAL REMARKS.

With a PLATE of the Herb VERVAIN:

Published for the Good of Mankind, particu-  
larly the Common People.

By JOHN MORLEY, Esq;

Of *Halfsted* in *Essex*.

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*Facts are stubborn Things*

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L O N D O N:

Printed for JAMES BUCKLAND, at the Buck in Pater-  
noster-Row. 1771.

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## P R E F A C E.

**H**A V I N G many years since had a Method of treating Scrophulous Disorders, or the King's Evil fallen into my Hands, and having, by many repeated Trials, found the great Success of such a Method, from such Numbers of Sufferers, as have put themselves under my Directions and found Relief; and being daily importuned not to let the Method die with me, I some Years ago published several Editions of this Essay, to let poor Sufferers know where to apply for Advice (gratis); I published those Methods, and Things, that the common People could easily procure, and safely apply (but some that were beyond their Management I reserved for another Opportunity.) I the more readily write this, that the poor Labourers and Handicraftsmen might not throw away their Money and Time after a parcel of specious Advertisements, calculated to pick the poor Patients Pockets, and fill the Author's own. See! every News-Paper stuf with physical Preparations, and observe the

the shameful Abuse of the Public, by their never-failing Medicines for every Identical Disorder ; from the learned MD's, with their Elixirs, Essences, and Tinctures, to the poor Corn-Cutter with his Plaster for Toes ; the grand Virtue and Design of all these fine pompous Advertisements, is to let the Reader know, how much Money he must bring with him ; for a Phial of Essence, or a Box of Pills, how long they will last, and when the next Payment is to be repeated. Many eminent Practitioners have assured me, they really do not understand the Treatment of Scrophulous Cases, as they usually withstand all the common Methods of Practice. I do not (in this Essay) pretend to inform the Learned in the Management of Scrophulous Disorders, who are supposed to know them much better than I do ; but only to instruct the plain honest Artificers and Labourers, how, in many Cases, to cure themselves and Families, without Physical Assistance, which their Pockets are unable to procure. What I here offer to the Public, is the Result of much Reading, and many Years Practice, on between two and three thousand Subjects, some hundreds quite cured, and many greatly relieved, some Limbs preserved, condemned to Amputation ; others cured turned out of Hospitals ; as well as several Cases given over, by the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons.



Surgeons. I shall use the plainest Words, and most common Expressions I can possibly think on, to instruct the Vulgar, and tell them the most simple and cheapest Remedies, and easiest to be procured by poor People, not much regarding Style or Expression, so I may be understood by common Readers, for whose Use this is designed, and not tickle the Ears or please the Palates of the censorious Readers, or mercenary Reviewers, who find fault with what they do not understand. I shall describe the King's Evil, or Scrophulous Disorders, with their Appearances, in such a plain Manner, that the most unlearned may know it in common Cases, (where there is no complication of other Disorders with it) without consulting Surgeons or Apothecaries, who (if they do know the Disorder) will seldom acknowledge it. I have observed, the better Sort are very averse from being told their Disorders are Scrophulous, but are contented to have them called Scorbutick, and their Apothecaries humour them in their Deceit, for fear of losing the Family. When such Persons apply to me, and desire to know my real Opinion, I tell them my Sentiments in the tenderest Manner, and never mention such Persons Names, that I may give no Offence to any one ; those that like to have the Disorder called Scorbutick may find  
Relief

Relief; if they chuse to have that Name given to their Complaints. Those that would deceive, let them be deceived. What I here relate is strict Truth: as I take no Money for my Advice, it cannot be supposed, I can have any Design to impose upon the Credulous. I shall relate the Cases and their Remedies, with the Success that followed; the Persons whose Names I mention are referred to, for a Confirmation of what I assert. Let not the Simplicity of the Process, or Slowness or Progress of the Cure, dishearten the Patients, or the Ridicule of Mr. Apothecary, &c. be any Hindrance to the Use of the Things I recommend; but let them not mix any other Prescriptions with mine; for it is very likely, such a Proceeding may defeat my Intention in the Method of Cure.



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A N  
E S S A Y  
On the NATURE and CURE  
O F  
SCHROPHULOUS DISORDERS,  
O R T H E  
K I N G ' s E V I L.

T H E King's Evil is a Name given to a very grievous and obstinate Disease, ever since *Edward* the Confessor's Time, because said to be cured by him and other succeeding Kings, both of *England* and *France*. Above Ninety-two thousand Persons are recorded to have been touched for it by King *Charles* the Second only, and with what Success is variously related, disputed, and believed; all this I leave to others that have Time to read Mr. *John Brown*, (Surgeon to King *Charles* the Second, his Account of the King's Evil, and a great Number of other Writers on the same Subject. This Disease is either Hereditary or Accidental; but I find on a close Examination of the Sufferers, not one in twenty is without some Family



Family Taint. The lowest Degree of this Disorder seems to be the Swelling of the Upper Lip, without any apparent Cause, which I look upon, as an infallible Sign of the Evil in the Habit of Body, though no other Appearances. Sometimes both Lips, the Nose, and Cheeks inflame and swell, the lower Jaw-bones are often troubled with Swellings on, and about them, and cause bad and rotten Teeth. Frequent Ulcers on the Gums, and many Swellings under the Ears, Jaws, and Chin, and many Parts of the Neck and Shoulders, sometimes smooth, moveable and not discoloured, or painful; at other Times, come to Sores, break and run much for a Length of Time, and are healed up with great Difficulty, and often break out again, if the Habit of Body is not altered. The Eyes are very frequently Scrophulous, they looking inflamed, and of a dead reddish or leaden Colour, (and sometimes white Specks on or near the Pupil or Sight) which generally discharge great Quantities of clear, saltish, or scalding Water, which takes the Skin off the Cheeks as it flows down. Often small running Ulcers at the greater Corners of the Eye, which discharge a whitish thick Matter, which glues the Eye-lids together in a Morning, and which are opened with Difficulty. When these Complaints withstand the usual Methods of Bleeding, Blistering behind the Ears, Cupping, Setons, and

a long Train of Etceteras, for Months, together, we may venture to pronounce them Scrophulous. What some People fancy to be the St. *Anthony's* Fire, is oftimes a Species of this Disorder. Swelling on the Knees and Elbows, without Redness or Inflammation, vulgarly called White Swellings, and the Bones themselves seem enlarged near the Joints, such are to be counted Scrophulous. When Sores or Ulcers have been long near the Joints or Bones, and will not heal with common Applications, it is a shrewed sign the Bones are foul or carious: In that Case Pieces of Bone, sharp, ragged, and seemingly Worm-eaten, and little Pieces like coarse Sand are seen on the Plasters among the Pus or Matter when taken off. When the Gristles or Cartilages on the Head of the Bones are consumed, then follows a stiff Joint, by the Bones growing together; the Muscles under the Hams and the Inside of the Elbows, I have often found to have been divided by the Knife, by unskilful Hands, so that Joint has been rendered useless. I have met with swellings within-side the Throat, and the Tonsils greatly tumefied and inflamed, and threatening a Suffocation, with no visible Appearances outwardly. This Distemper may shew itself like a Leprosy, with a very thick white Scroff on the Head and elsewhere. When the Disorder falls on the Lungs, then beware of a galloping Consumption, as it is frequently



gently called, and is too often fatal to young People, by not attending to this Disorder so scrupulously as they ought. After the Measles and Small-pox, weak Eyes, and running sores are not unusual, which People seldom think proceeds from the Evil, but it is too often the Case. A very dry thick crusty Scab near the Elbows, and Joints is sometimes seen, which when removed, is soon succeeded by others of the same Nature, which are difficult to cure, before the Constitution is amended. The Glands under Womens Armpits, frequently swell or tumesfy, and their Breasts are invaded by hard unequal painful Tumours or Swellings, which have been too often taken for Cancers, and the Knife applied by mistaken Practitioners, to the irreparable Damage of the poor Sufferer; but if these Breasts are neglected or wrongly treated, they often degenerate into real Cancers, then every one knows the Case is deplorable. When the Bones are foul, the Case is bad, though not always to be despaired of; sometimes the Marrow of the Bone is touched, or the Disease begins in the Bone itself, which may be observed when the Bones themselves seem swelled about the Head of them, and afterwards Sores break out and discharge a thin oily Matter, then is this truly a deplorable Case. How often is the Disease conveyed to tender Infants, by Scrophulated Nurses, who shall  
look



look like the Picture of Health (as many do) till they disclose their hidden Infirmities. When a Family of sound Health, and free from all Humours, find their Children diseased in this, and the like Manner, they are filled with Astonishment, and think it is impossible their Children should have the Evil, when there is not the least Traces of it, either in Father or Mother's Family; but let them not deceive themselves, for alas! it is too common. If, upon a curious Enquiry amongst the Relations of a Family, any of the aforesaid Symptoms have been remembered (though a Generation or two distant) the Complaint may be suspected to be the Evil; it will lie dormant many Years, appearing and disappearing in some Families for many Generations, and shew itself in many Forms, in all Ages, Sexes, and Conditions, from the Birth to the Age of 85, as I have experienced; one amongst numerous Relations or many Children of the same Parents shall only show it in one Instance, and all the rest be free and clear. This Disease appears in so many Forms, it would be endless to attempt any further Description, these being the most frequent Complaints in the simple King's Evil, (without Complication) and I think sufficient to inform the common People in ordinary Cases, what they ail in general, without physical Advice, which they with Difficulty obtain. All these,

these, and such like Complaints, are removed by much Time, Patience, and a steady Adherence to my Directions, even for Years in some Subjects. One constant Method, I use to every Patient without Distinction, let their Complaints be what they will; if, upon Examination, I have Reason to suspect them to be Scrophulous, is to give them a Piece of of fresh Common Purple Vervain-Root, about three or four Inches long and the Size of the Patient's little Finger; all the Fibres are to be cut off smooth, and as little of the Bark as possible, to be worn always at the Pit of the Stomach, tied, with a Yard of white Sattin Ribband, half an Inch wide, round the neck of Men or Women of an ordinary Stature; if taller an Ell will be wanting, and Children in Proportion. To the better Sort of Females, I propose the Ribband to be fastened through an Eyelet-hole, or Loop in the Bosom of the Shift, and so worn, which will be no Eye sore; a Quarter of a Yard of Ribband will be enough; but no other coloured Ribband is proper; because the Dye in some Colours may be prejudicial. The Root must never be wetted, not when fresh gathered, but wiped clean with a dry Cloth; it must not be sown up, or covered with any thing, but always worn naked at the Pit of the Stomach. If it hurts or pricks the Stomach, the Fibres must be taken off smooth with a sharp Knife,



as before when first used, preserving as much of the Root as possible. I always cut a little Notch round the upper End of the Root, and tie the Ribband with a double fast Knot, lest it slip out and be lost ; when it has been worn a few Days, it will shrink by the Heat of the Stomach ; then the Ribband must be tied faster. A Buckle or Button on the Bosom of a Man's Shirt will be convenient to keep the Root next the Skin, as well in Bed as up. Observe the Root be not decayed or rotten, but fresh and green ; and it is necessary to have a fresh one, every Spring and Fall. When I put this Root about the Patient's Neck, I am not ashamed to say, " Pray God give his Blessing to these my " Endeavours\*, ' or some such short Ejaculation ; not by way of Charm, or such like Nonsense, but to remind the Patient of our Dependence on the divine Help, co-operating with the natural Means he has provided for our Comfort and Relief ; and surely there is as good Reason to beg his Blessing on this, as our daily Food. Here methinks I see the Criticks smile and the Reviewers laugh ; but let them laugh that receive the Benefit, nor heed such Triflers. Triflers indeed ! See the Critical Reviewers, for June 1767, on the Third Edition of this Essay. The Public are (no Doubt) much obliged to them, for making the Means of Recovery of the Health

\* See Eccles. Chap. xxxv.ii. Verse 14.



Health and Ease of their Fellow Creatures,  
from their Maladies, the Objects of Ridiculè  
and Banter. A Lady tells me,

Their Heads, or Hearts unsound must be,

They cannot or they will not see.

This Root being of such geueal Use in all Stages of the Evil, it will be proper to give a plain Description of the Herb Vervain, and the Place and Manner of its Growth, that it may be easier found and known, by the unlearned Countryman. The Common Vervain, grows with a fibrous or stringy Root, of a light Brown Colour, very hard, bitterish, and irregular; sends up many Stalks half a Yard high, squarish, solid, somewhat rough, of a purplish Green, and branched; the Leaves stand upon the Stalks in Couples over-against each other, hairy on both Sides, wrinkled, and jagged with deep Cuts, and wide at the Stalk End, something like Oak Leaves when half grown, of a deeper Green above than beneath. The Flowers are ranged in long Spikes, of a very pale Purple, divided into five Parts at the Top, succeeded by four small longish Seeds joined together. The Flower is very small, the two uppermost Segments appearing like a Crest, and turned upwards. It grows very often in Highways, Court-Yards, chalky, gravelly, and stony uncultivated Places, and blows in  
July,

July, August, September, and October. Some call it the Holy Herb ; in Latin *Verbena* ; in Welck, *Cas gangythrel*. All the Herb is very bitter and astringent ; it is much celebrated by ancient Authors ; and but just noticed by a few Moderns, as being almost out of the fashionable Part of Practice, though formerly famed for numberless Virtues. This Plant, by a Chymical Analysis, yields several acid Liquors, Abundance of Oil, pretty much volatile concrete Salt and Earth : From whence it is probable, that it contains some SalAmmoniac, united with a good deal of Sulphur. It is vulnerary, cleansing, and opening. The other Medicines and Applications, with their Preparations, such as common People may manage, will be found interspersed among the Cases following.

### C A S E I.

PHILLIP WINTERFLOOD, late of *Halsted*, in *Essex*, a Journeyman Barber, aged 35 Years, formerly living at the Sign of the *Peruke*, opposite the *White-Horse*, at *Mile-End*, near *London*, was for eight Years past, miserably afflicted with several strumous Ulcers under both Breasts (he was a fat Man ; ) some were above an Inch deep, and discharged much foul corrupted Matter, and had done so for Years, could get no Help, and had the Evil hereditarily in his Family  
many



many Years : This poor Man was in *Hallsted* Workhouse, and under all the Disadvantages of bad Diet, and worse Attendance. The first Thing I did was to give him the Vervain Root to wear about his Neck, and ordered him some gentle Physic once a Week, viz. Syrup of Roses one Ounce, and Manna one Ounce, dissolved in a Pint of skimmed Milk, for one Dose ; sometimes he got it, and sometimes he did not. I gave him a Phial of Liquor to wash his Sores with Night and Morning, viz. Vinegar, one third, Red Port Wine one third, and Vervain Water distilled one third ; and some Ointment to spread on a Rag, and lay on the Sores after washing them. The Ointment was made of green Vervain Leaves bruised, with about a tenth Part of House-leek Leaves bruised, and both boiled in Pork Lard, till it was of a good Consistence, and all the watry Part wasted, then strained and kept for Use. It may be made stronger by boiling the same Quantity of Herbs in the same Liquor as before. Note : Instead of distilled Vervain Water, which poor People cannot so easily procure, the Infusion of the Vervain Leaves may be used ; that is, hot boiling Water poured upon the Herb (like Tea) and covered, and when cold may be used in its stead ; this Method cured this Man in six Months, and nothing else was used, and he continues well to this Day, which is above twelve Years ago.



## C A S E II.

*Robert Heatherly*, Son of the Reverend Mr. *Heatherly*, late Minister of *Clavering* in *Essex*, formerly Master of the School in *Christ's Hospital*, *London*, aged 23 Years, was an Out-Patient of *St. Bartholomew's Hospital* for the King's-Evil, had the second Joint of his Thumb so affected, that the Bone was digested out, and many other Sores healed up and seemed cured; not long after, the Disorder fell into both his Eyes, with some small unbroken Tumors in the Neck and under both Ears, and had been blind some Months. He came to me with both his Eyes covered; has been well some Years, and is now in the Excise. I gave this Man a Root as usual, and ordered him a gentle Purge of half Manna and half Syrup of Roses in thin Milk, once a Week for three Months, and to leave off all Covering to his Eyes, and wash them often with cold Spring Water, and dropping it into the Eyes, this restored him perfectly to his Sight.

## C A S E III.

*Ann Nunn*, Daughter of *John Nunn*, Farmer, near *Laindon-hills* in *Essex*, aged 21 Years, had a large Scrophulous Tumor opened on the right under Jaw-bone by  
B
Mr.

Mr. *Earl of Hornden*; it discharged mostly a thin watery Matter, but as he could not heal the Wound, she came to me, I gave her a Root as usual, and ordered some gentle Purges, (but no Salts on any Account, for I always find them bad in Scrophulous Cases) and gave her some *Vervain Ointment* for the Wound, which soon healed it up.

#### C A S E IV.

*Elizabeth Reynolds*, Wife of *Joseph Reynolds* of *Halsted*, Farmer, aged 25 Years, came with her Lips much swelled, and had been coming three Years; the Inside of the Nose and upper Lip broke out and very scabby, and a large uneven Scrophulous Tumor had been increasing three Quarters of a Year, under the right Ear, and several small Swellings on the left Side of the Neck. I dispersed all the Swellings, and cured her other Complaints, in six Months; she has had no Returns, now five Years ago. First I gave her a Root, and purged her with gentle Physic as usual; I gave her some *Vervain Ointment* for the Lip and Nose, and ordered her to take some green Hemlock Leaves, and bruise and apply them warm once a Day to the large Tumor; in six Weeks the Tumor was greatly diminished, but the Hemlock worn constantly, something affected the Head and Eyes, so I ordered it  
only



only to be applied at Night, and to lie on till Morning, which in two or three Months reduced the Swelling entirely, and all the small Tumors vanished, and is now, and has been ever since in good Health and Spirits. Note, If the Hemlock affects the Head, as it sometimes will do, if applied near the Head and Neck ; some gentle Physic must be often used, or the Quantity of Hemlock lessened ; if neither will do, leave it quite off.

### C A S E V.

*William Ardley*, Weaver, of *Coggeshall* in *Essex*, aged 40 Years, had been much troubled with the Tooth-ach and Ear-ach, then a Sore broke within-side the left Cheek and discharged near a Pint of stinking Matter, at several Times, then a large Tumor arose on the left Jaw-bone and broke into three Ulcers, and discharged much Matter, when the Sore within the Mouth healed up, it was with Difficulty he could open it. I gave him a Root, and ordered him once a Week a Purge of Jalap, five or six Grains, more or less as it operated, two Motions a Day sufficient. Applied to the Sores without Side the Cheek, a Pultice of White Bread, Milk, White Lilly Roots, and Groundsel, all mashed together, and laid on warm Morning and Night ; this sufficiently digested the Sore,

then I healed it up with black Plaisters as follows : Take White Lead finely powdered, Ounces two, Oil Olive, Ounces, four, mixed in a large earthen Pipkin ; boil it over a slow Fire, and stir it all the Time with a Piece of Lead till it grows of a deep brown or blackish Colour, which costs an Hour or more ; let the Pipkin not be above a quarter full, lest it boil over, which it is very apt to do, let it cool in a Gally-pot, and keep it for Use ; when you use it, warm the Point of a Knife and spread it pretty thick on black Silk or linen Rag, and apply warm, and it will stick ; do not pull the Plaisters off, lest you hurt the Sore ; when it falls off itself, apply a fresh one as long as wanted.

## C A S E VI.

*Deborah Alston, Wife of Thomas Alston of Heney in Essex, aged 24 Years, when she came to me had a running Ulcer about the Middle of the Outside of her left Thigh, had been healing and running alternately for ten Years, a small Ulcer near the left Breast, and small Kernels sometimes about the Neck and Throat, which shewed the Complaint to be Scrophulous ; she had been twice salivated and much done to little Purpose. I gave her a Root, and ordered Rose Leaves boiled in Whey for a gentle Purge once a Week, and ordered her to wash the*  
 Ulcers



Ulcers twice a Day with a strong Infusion of Hemlock Leaves, and to apply a Rag spread with Elder Ointment over all. About two Months after she felt a Piece of Bone very loose, I ordered her then to apply much Lint, wetted with the Infusion Morn and Night, and the Elder Ointment as before; three Weeks after she found the Point of a Bone sticking out, she herself, with the Point of a Penknife, enlarged the Wound and took out a Piece of Bone, and examining the Wound with her Finger, took out two more Pieces, and much Blood followed; a Week after she brought the three Pieces to me, the Wound looked clean and healed up in a Month's Time; she has no Lameness, but walks well and enjoys good Health, and feels no more Prickings or Signs of any more Pieces of Bone; two of the Exfoliations are two Inches and an half long each, and one Inch broad, and the other is two Inches long and three Quarters of an Inch-broad, and altogether weighing a Quarter of an Ounce; some Parts looked black and some white, and looked as if Worm-eaten; the whole Length when laid together measured seven Inches. *Note*, Elder Ointment is made in the Spring, by boiling the young Leaves in Mutton Suet, till the Moisture is wasted, or in Pork-Lard; to make it strong, add the same Quantity of Leaves as before, after straining the first

Leaves from the Liquor, and repeat this three Times ; in Winter when no Leaves, take the tender Bark of the last Summer's Shoots, scrape and boil them as above, and keep for Use.

## C A S E VII.

*Robert Russ*, aged 23, Son of Mr. *James Russ*, Quarter-master of Sir *Robert Rich's* Dragoons, when he came to me was quartered at *Chelmsford* in *Essex* ; a Monkey had bitten the left Side of his Neck, which was sore, he had many Scrophulous Swellings under his Chin and round about the Neck, hard, and oftentimes very painful, and many small Pustules breaking out like a salt Humour in many Parts. I gave him the Vervain Root to wear about his Neck, and ordered him a gentle Purge of Jalap in thin Milk once a Week ; the other six Days to take a Dram of Antimony finely powdered, or levigated, mixt with the same Quantity of Loaf Sugar beat fine, and to wash it down with a Quarter of a Pint of Groundivy Tea, and to continue this Course six Months, and ordered him to use Vervain Ointment to the Sores. An Acquaintance of his, which he recommended to my Care, assures me he told him he had the Happiness of being perfectly cured, with God's Assistance, under my Hands ; and declares no other Remedies he had



had ever used, had any Effect, but mine.  
This was three Years after the Cure.

## C A S E VIII.

*John Butcher*, of *Bocking* in *Essex*, Bay Weaver, aged 30. He first felt a dashing Pain suddenly strike into the lower Joint of the Fore-finger of his Right-Hand, and in about a Month all the other Fingers and Thumb were affected in the same Manner, and so contracted, that he could not stir them even with the other Hand without great Pain. No Discolouration or any perceivable Tumor, Swelling, or preternatural Heat, to the Touch of himself or others. This Man I restored to the full Use of his Hand, Fingers, and Thumb, by the following Method: I gave him a Root as usual, and ordered a Purge of Rose Leaves, boiled in Whey, once a Week, and directed him to boil Cabbage Leaves bruised in Water, and bathe his Hand in the warm Liquor Morn and Night, for half an Hour at a Time, and to rub all the Joints after Bathing with the Vervain Ointment. This Man had several Relations troubled with the Evil, and therefore suspected his Complaint to be of that Nature, I treated him as a scrophulated Patient and cured him in two Months. He was discharged from the *Essex* Militia, as Unserviceable, and after Cure, admitted again.

## C A S E IX.

*Robert London*, Son of *Robert London* of *Bradfield Combust* in *Suffolk*, aged 32, had a Fever which held about a Week; three Months after, thirteen Tumors arose about the Legs, Thighs, and Buttocks, had been all opened by a Surgeon, and discharged monstrously, which had reduced him to a meer Skeleton; he was brought to me in a Cart with a Bed made in it, being unable to move Hand or Foot, or to be moved without great Trouble; I went out to see this poor Man in the Cart, he looked so like a dead Corpse, that People which saw him set out from Home, never expected to see him return again alive, his Stomach gone, and Visage so ghastly. This Man's Sores were all tented, which I ordered to be pulled out, and all the Dressings to be laid aside, and ordered all the Sores to be gently syringed twice a Day with a strong Decoction of Hemlock, Milk-warm, and apply dry Lint, and lest it should stick, Elder Ointment spread on a Rag over all, and ordered him daily half a Dram of Antimony, finely powdered, with an equal Quantity of Loaf Sugar, and to wash it down with Groundivy Tea. I also put a Root about his Neck, as I do to every one: in three Weeks Time his Stomach returned and his Sores began to heal, in two Months the Surgeon



geon wrote he was quite well; many call this the Running Evil.

## C A S E X.

*Susan Ottley*, of *Bocking* in *Essex*, single Woman, aged 26 Years, she came to me with almost numberless Ulcers and fungous scabby excrescencies from the Top of the right Shoulder down below the Nipple of the right Breast, and all hollow like a Honey Comb; she had a deep Ulcer on the Inside the Arm, near the right Arm-pit, one near her Shoulder, and one within-side the Arm about three Inches above the Elbow, and one almost under the right Buttock, bad Stomach, and bad Health and Complexion, had this Disease hereditarily, had one Sister died of it, and another had it in her Eyes, which I cured. This Person came and lived near me, so that I saw her once in eight or ten Days, by which Means I effected the Cure in the following Manner: I first gave her a Root, and applied a Plaister of Sperma Ceti and Salled Oil to the Scabs on the Shoulder, Neck, and Breast, which made them shell off; afterwards applied the black Plaster, as in Case the Fifth, which being changed and renewed as Occasion required, at length healed up all the Sores; all the Time of her Cure I gave her daily a Dram of Antimony finely powdered, mixt with half a Dram of  
Loaf

Loaf Sugar, and to drink a cupful of Ground-ivy Tea after it; if it gave more than two Stools in twenty-four Hours I lessened the Dose, and sometimes increased it as I found her Body in Order; I continued this Course many Months; all her Sores are now well, and she has got a good Stomach, and a healthy florid Countenance, and so likely to continue. I advised her to purge gently every Spring and Fall with Jalap three or four Times.

## C A S E   X I.

*Mary Bingham*, Wife of *Adam Bingham*, Husbandman, late of *Cressing*, lately living at *Patiswick*, in *Essex*, aged 28 Years, was led to me, having been totally blind for twelve Months past. Both Eyes looked as almost covered over with Cobwebs, of a dead leaden Colour, run much scalding Water, mixed with white thick Matter from the Corners of her Eyes, and almost continually dashing Pains about her Forehead with many Scrophulous Breakings out, about the Corners of her Mouth, and several other Places. I gave her a Root of Vervain to wear about her Neck, and ordered her to purge once a Week, with dried Damask Rose Leaves, boiled in Whey, and gave her a Phial of distilled Vervain Water, to drop five or six Drops cold into each Eye, four or five Times a Day,  
and



and to wash them every Morning with the coldest Spring Water. This Method, in a few Months, restored her Sight, so that she can now see to spin, and do any common Work. Three Years after this, she shewed me her right Breast very hard and full of Pain, some Remainder of the old Complaint, for Want of proper Care, having fallen into it: I ordered her to pultice it with half white Nettle Leaves, and half Elder Leaves, warm, Morning and Night, and this has restored it as well as the other; this is two Years since, and as I have heard nothing from her, no Doubt but she continues well.

## C A S E XII.

*Elenor Bullmer*, kept the *Golden Lyon* in *Newmarket, Suffolk*, aged 55, about seven Years since, had a violent Rash came out all over her, then fell into the left Leg, and produced a very large foul, deep, stinking Ulcer, almost all round the small of her Leg, five or six Inches long; the Muscle that bends the great Toe and Foot upwards, bare and dry as a Horn, an Inch or more in Length, and grown about with much proud Flesh. This Woman had not been able to ster off her Couch, for a Year and a half without great Difficulty, and two Stilts under her Arms; and a great Phyfician told her, that

that if she went to an Hospital, the Ulcer might be healed in two Months, but in all Probability it would kill her. Living at *Newmarket*, several Physicians have seen her since I took her in hand: The Muscle of the Leg is rotted out, so that she cannot bend her Foot upwards, and must always go limping; she goes about her House without any Crutches, and now and then an underhand Staff, especially up Steps: the Ulcer is now very clean, and not above the Bigness of a Half Crown, and the Woman in good Health and Spirits, and able to manage her House herself, having, since I first saw her, lost her Husband, who fetched me to see her. I gave her a Root, judging the Case Scrophulous, and ordered the Ulcer to be cleansed twice a Day from its Filth, with a Decoction of Hemlock, and then apply the Herb bruised, with Pork Lard and fine Oatmeal, warm, as a Pultice, fresh twice a Day as long as wanted, and at the same Time to use the following Diet Drink: *viz.* Take Senna, four Ounces; of sharp pointed Dock Root, Half a Pound; the Great Water Dock Root, half a Pound; Polypody Roots half a Pound; all sliced very thin; Crude Antimony grossly powdered, one Pound, and tied up in a Rag: Boil all in three Gallons of Sweet Wort, till one Gallon is wasted; strain it when cool enough; work it with a Spoonful of Yeast; add white Nettles, green Broom,



Broom, and Groundivy, of each bruised a Handful ; let all work together ; when done, strain and bottle up close for Use. Of this Liquor she drank a Coffee-Cupful, Morning and Night, and was to increase or lessen the Dose as it operated ; two Motions in Twenty-four Hours are sufficient. This Diet Drink she regulated accordingly, and found great Effects from it. She was also to anoint her Leg round the Ulcer with Elder Ointment. As the Ulcer is now brought to good Condition and small Compass, I think it much better for her Health at her Time of Life, than healing it quite up. Note, It is best in Summer Time to make but Half the Quantity of Diet Drink at once, lest it turn sour and vomitive ; it must then be thrown away, and fresh made. I also cured her Son of the Evil in his Eyes at the same Time ; and in the Manner as before related.

### C A S E XIII.

*John Nicolls*, Son of *Zachariah Nicolls*, Miller, of *Little Asben*, near *Dunmow* in *Essex*, aged 7 Years, had a scrophulous Swelling of the Great Toe of the left Foot, and several small running Ulcers on the same, which discharged a thin watery Ichor, for half a Year, and the Evil a little in the left Eye. I gave this Child a small Root ; ordered Syrup of Roses and Manna equal Parts,  
in

in thin Milk once a Week, for a gentle Purge, and to wash his Eyes with the coldest Spring Water every Day, and a Cataplasm of a Garden Snail out of a Shell, beat to a Mash, with the same Quantity of Garden Parsly, and applied to the Toe fresh twice in Twenty-four Hours; this perfectly cured the Disorder in three Months.

#### C A S E XIV.

*Matthew Byford*, Son of *Abel Byford*, of *Little Sampford*, in *Essex*, aged 18 Years; three Years since, a large Tumor arose on the upper Part of his left Thigh, and had been broke into an Ulcer about a Fortnight, and run much thick Matter: An Inch above the Ulcer was a very red inflammatory Swelling, which seemed to communicate with the Ulcer: I gave this Lad a Root, and ordered to purge once a Week, with equal Parts of Manna and Syrup of Roses, dissolved in Cheese Whey, for two Months, and to inject a Decoction of Hemlock into the running Ulcer; then to apply a Pultice of half white Nettle Leaves (by some called Archangels) and half Elder Leaves, beat into a Mash, with a little Pork Lard and fine Oatmeal, fresh and warm, twice a Day, over both Ulcer and Tumor, which in three Months made a perfect Cure.



## C A S E XV.

*Elizabeth Golden*, Wife of *J. bn Golden* of *Water Beauchamp*, in *Essex*, Husbandman, had a Year ago a most violent hot sa. Humour invaded her left Leg, and broke into numberless Water Bladders, itched much, and greatly inflamed, and the Flesh hardened; the inside of the Thigh on the same Side began to be affected in the like Manner; I advised her to drink half a Pint of Tea made with the common Red Dock Roots sliced thin, Morning and Night, or boiled in Cheese Whey; then to wash her Leg and Thigh all over with an Infusion of Green Hemlock Leaves, and to anoint the same with Elder Ointment; in three Months she came almost well, but complained of a Coldness at her Stomach, for which I ordered a gentle Purge of Jalap, with a little grated Ginger, once a Week. About two Months after she came to thank me, being quite free of her Complaints. N. B. No Root. As I thought it more Scorbutic then Scrophulous.

## C A S E XVI.

*Edward Howlet*, of *Burnham*, in *Essex*, Husbandman, aged 30; about two Years ago a Tumor appeared and disappeared at Times near the Right Jugular for a Year; afterwards it swelled as large as a Halfpenny Loaf,

Loaf, then was pulticed by a Surgeon's Direction, but it did not suppurate or disperse, but was opened, and some Part cut away, and discharged a little thick bloody Matter; it had been cut eleven Times, as fast as the fungous kept growing; and discharged much of the same sort of Matter. Now he came to me, and the fungous was large and flat, with thick Edges, like a Cake laid on the Part; the Edges were ulcerated, it was three Inches in Diameter, and one Inch thick, the Man well in every other Respect: As I apprehended this to be a Scrophulous Case, I gave him a Root to wear at his Stomach, and ordered to purge gently twice a Week with Damask Rose Leaves, boiled in Cheese Whey, to apply Slips of the Black Plaster (see Case V.) to the Ulcers round the Edge of the Fungous, and over all the Hemlock Leaves bruised and very hot, twice a Day. He came in a Month much mended, in three Months the Fungous almost wasted, and some Months after he came to shew me, he was quite well, not the least Remains of the Fungous or any Ulcer, but the Neck smooth and even, and no Complaint whatever.

## C A S E XVII.

*Elizabeth Hart*, Daughter of *Thomas Hart*,  
of *Earls Colne, Essex*, Husbandman, aged  
20 Years,



20 Years had a Swelling on the windpipe, which comprést it to a great Difficulty of swallowing, and her Throat very sore within-side ; had been increasing two Years, the Lips often cracked and bled. I gave this young Woman a Root, and directed to purge gently often, with Syrup of Roses and Manna in Cheese Whey or thin Milk, and to apply a Cateplasm of a Garden Snail and Parsley bruised, fresh Morning and Evening; this brought out many small Pimples, which discharged some little watery Matter, then died away, and in a day or two others appeared and discharged in like Manner for some time, untill the Humour discharged itself that Way, and the Swelling all gone. I ordered her also to bruise eight or ten Millipedes or Sow Bugs, and make them into a Pill with fresh Butter, and going to rest to let it lye at the Root of her Tongue, and melt down leisurely, till the Soreness within side the Throat was no more ; this Method in three Months removed all her Complaints.

### C A S E XVIII.

*Joseph Traylin, of Topfield in Essex, Cooper, aged 40 Years, had several Tumors and Ulcers on the back of his Right Hand, which rendered it useless, and some small glandular Swellings about his Groin and Arm-pits, has the Evil strong in the Family, found no help from the Surgeon, then came*

to me as usual ; I gave him a Root, and ordered to purge weekly for six Weeks, with Damask Rose Leaves boiled in Whey, and sweetned with Manna, and to apply a Pul-tice of White Nettle Leaves beat to a Mash, with a little pork Lard, and fine Oat-meal, fresh and warm twice a Day, to the Back of the Hand ; in a Week he found great Bene-fit, and in a Fortnight more, the Swellings on the Back of the Hand were all down and well ; he came about two Months after, his Hand quite firm and well, and all his other Complaints vanished.

### C A S E XIX.

*Mary Tyler*, Wife of *William Tyler* of *Halsted*, Husbandman, aged 36 Years, had the Evil breaking out all over her at Times for many Years ; when she came to me had both Lips monstrously swelled, and her Mouth so very sore, that it was Pain to get her Victuals into it ; her Nose swelled, and all the lower Parts of her Face and Chin almost one intire Scab, with many Scrophulous Breakings-out on the upper part of her Face ; she was such a Spectacle she was ashamed any Body should see her ; all her Neighbours told her she ought to cover her Face when she went into the Street ; she had many other Breakings out of the same Kind on both Legs and Arms, and all very hot. I gave her a Root, and ordered gentle Jalap Purges twice



a Week ; and for constant Drink, a Handful of Groundivy-Leaves, and about an Ounce of Common Dock Roots sliced thin, and boiled in two Quarts of Water, covered, till a Pint is boiled away, strained and kept for Drink the next Day, and so constantly, except she purged ; the Mouth to be washed twice a Day with an Infusion of Green Hemlock-Leaves, and all Scabs on the Face, Legs, and Arms, or other Places, but to be careful she swallowed none, or touched her Eyes, then to anoint with the Elder Ointment, As she lived by me, I saw her frequently, and sometimes found it proper to add half Hemlock Ointment to the other, that is made by boiling the green Leaves of from Hemlock, bruised in Hog's Lard, and strained : if it wants to be stronger, boil the same Quantity of the Hemlock Leaves in the same Liquor two or three Times. She is now well, and her Face clean and smooth, and no Scrophulous Symptoms ; her Face being so much altered, many Town's Folk declared they did not know her.

### C A S E XX.

The next Case I shall give as drawn up by the Patient himself.

I *John Hickman*, Gardener to the Right Honourable Lady *Bateman*, at *Yeldham* in *Essex*, aged 50 Years ; six Months since having a violent Rheumatic Pain struck into

my right Arm and Hand, with great Weakness, my Hand grew very thick, and my Fingers stood out stiff and immoveable, and quite uselefs, that I could not lift my Hand to my Head, nor take up an Ounce Weight off the Table with it ; the Flesh pitted much without Heat or Discolouration. I had a small Ulcer on the Wrist near my Hand. I was advised, and had a Letter of Recommendation to the most eminent Surgeons in *London*, to whom I applied without any Success. After I came Home, I was advised to apply to Mr. *Morley*, and three Weeks after I had been with him, I could stir my Fingers, and in ten Weeks Time the Swelling of my Hand was wholly gone, the Ulcer is entirely healed, and now by the Blessing of God I can use my Hand and do my Work as usual, and never was in a better State of Health, in my Life, as witness my Hand,

*February, 1766.*

JOHN HICKMAN.

This Person was cured by the following Method ; I gave him a large Vervain Root to wear at his Stomach, and directed him to purge once a Week with ten Grains of Jalap and ten Grains of Cream of Tartar, and to lessen the Quantity, if more than three or four Motions. I directed him to boil half a Pond of Salt-petre in a Quart of Spring



Spring Water to a Pint, and to apply Cloths three or four Times double wetted in the Liquor pretty warm, three Times in twenty-four Hours, a Quarter of an Hour at a Time, and to wrap up the Hand warm in Flannel, and also a Flannel Sleeve tight on the Arm; and gave him some Vervain Ointment, as in Case I. to the Ulcer, and after a piece of Lead Plaster, as in Case V. to the same, which is sound and well.

### C A S E XXI.

A young Gentleman in *London*, aged 26, fell down on both Knees, a Year since; a white lymphatick swelling had been increasing on his right Knee, notwithstanding the following means had been used, as he himself told me; first the Knee was treated as a common Bruise, and rubbed with Oils to no Effect; afterwards pulticed with white Bread and Milk, Lees of Beer, near a Month, without Advantage; then fomented with an Infusion of Camomile, to no purpose: next a Blister, (run but little) no Benefit; then Leeches applied twice, six at a Time, signified nothing; was at Bath, afterwards at Southampton, and used the usual Methods at both Places; and all these Trials had no Effect on the Swelling. He had also a small Scrophulous Tumour, red and enflamed, on the Point of the Breast Bone. I gave this Gentleman a Vervain Root, and ordered

some gentle Physick once a Week, and to foment the Knee with a Decoction of green Hemlock Leaves, Morn and Night, for half an Hour at a Time, warm, and afterwards to apply the Herb bruised, all over the Knee, and to Lace it on with a Knee Piece. Some Months after, he wrote me as follows: ‘ I am sure all the Pleasure I enjoy, is totally to be attributed to your Kindness, for had I not been so happy as to have been under your Direction, most likely I should not have gained the Use of my Limbs, so soon (if ever).’ In another Letter he says, ‘ I am surprisngly recovered in Regard to my Knee,’

## C A S E XXII.

A little Miss in *London*, of 4 Years old, had two Scrophulous Ulcers, on each Arm one: both had been dryed up, by the use of the Bark, by order of one of the principal Physicians in *London*; but soon after the Disorder broke out with a deep Ulcer on the Calf of each Leg; these were cured with some gentle Physic and a Vervain Root at her Stomach. Some Time after, neglecting to wear the Root as directed, the Humour fell into both her Eyes, which was soon removed again, by a fresh Vervain Root as before. I have had numberless Instances, of People leaving off, or losing their Roots, and thinking them very Insignificant, and the Disease



Disease has returned, and by Application of fresh Roots, their Complaints have Disappeared again ; in some People this has been the Case, three or four Times ; which is certainly a convincing Proof of the great Efficacy of the Vervain Root, in Scrophulous Complaints.

### C A S E XXIII.

A Lady in *Norfolk* about 25, had a large Scrophulous Tumour near the left Ankle, and pricking dashing Pains in her Joints. When I first saw her, she bathed daily in the Salt-Water, which had so swelled, and inflamed her Leg, she could hardly stand ; I begg'd her to leave off Bathing, which she did, and in forty-eight Hours, she found Ease ; and in some Months after, I had a Letter from her, that her Complaints were by my Directions intirely removed. I cured this Lady by anointing the Tumour with Pomatum one Ounce, Flower of Brimstone one Dram, Salt Prunella half an Ounce, made into an Ointment ; this soon cooled the Inflammation ; I gave her a Root, and ordered gentle Physic. This Case shews the bad Effects of Salt Water Bathing, in Scrophulous Disorders.

### C A S E XXIV.

A young Lady in *Norfolk*, aged 12 Years, had a smooth flattish Tumour about the  
C 4
bigness

bigness of Half a Crown, gathering above the Nipple of the left Breast ; she had been under the Care of a judicious Physician, without any apparent Advantage; I gave her a Vervain Root, and ordered a Pint of Milk to be boiled and sweetened, with a Table Spoonful of clarified Honey, and taken in Four Parts ; one in the Morning fasting, one at Eleven, one at Four, and one at Bed-time ; taking 30 or 40 Millepedes with the first and last Draughts of Milk and Honey. This dissolved the Tumour, many years since, without any Return. In these four last Cases, I have mentioned no Names, because they are Persons above the common Rank, and do not chuse to be named in Print. I have Multitudes in the same Situation, or I could have produced great Numbers to have confirmed the Success of my Methods of Cure ; and besides it would swell this Treatise too large for the purchase of the common People, who's Good I principally aim at ; tho' I confess, what will cure a Peasant will cure a Prince. I am very unhappy in being generally applied to in the last Stages of these Disorders, when every other Person, and Method has been unsuccessfully used ; then I am consulted, yet even then, I have rescued many, from losing Life, or Limb ; as the many Cases now by me, can prove. Had I been applied to in the Beginning of these Complaints, my Cures (tho' very many) had been more numerous. I shall mention two Cases more.



to shew the good Effects of Hemlock in Scrophulous Cases.

## C A S E XXV.

*Peter Raven, of Earls Coln, Essex, Labourer, aged 40, was in the Workhouse when he applied to me, and gave me the following Account: ‘ Eight Years since, ‘ several dashing Pains struck into his right ‘ Breast, which in an Hour’s Time, swelled ‘ as big as his Fist, without any Strain, or ‘ Hurt that he remembers; ’twas pulticed ‘ for nine Weeks without any Effect, the ‘ Sinews of the right Arm contracted, the ‘ Swelling on his Breast kept increasing for ‘ seven Years, and was bigger than his ‘ Head; at length broke of itself, and discharged a Quart or two of white thick ‘ Matter; and a Multitude of other Ulcers ‘ appeared, all over the whole Breast, and ‘ kept running near a Year:” Then he came to me seemingly in a deep Consumption, with a very bad Cough, and emaciated to a great Degree, and to all Appearance in a dying Way, and smelt most filthily; I think the most deplorable Object I ever saw. I ordered him to take a Dram of green Hemlock Leaves fresh every Day, bruise and boil in a Pint and half of Cheese Whey, strain, and take one half fasting and the other at Night going to rest, washing all the Sores first with a strong Infusion of Hemlock*

lock, and then to apply Elder Ointment on a Cloth all over his Breast ; he came in a Fort-night's Time, his Cough gone, his Stomach good, and Colour returning, slept well ; a Month after, I added half Hemlock Ointment to the Elder Ointment, and in some Months completed the Cure, and he is now out of the Workhouse, and maintains himself by his Labour ; is now married and has a child since his cure : no other Method was used. Note, He had no Vervain Root. This cure must be attributed to the Hemlock only. Many Gentlemen have seen this great cure with Surprise.

### C A S E XXVI.

*John Newton*, of *Halsted, Essex*, Weaver, aged 38 Years, a Year before he came to me, had a Humour broke out on the lower Part of the Shin of his left Leg, with many small Pimples, with white Heads, afterwards ran clear Water, and broke into a large deep Ulcer, so that the Bone was visible ; with much fungous Flesh at the Bottom, the Leg and Foot swelled, and pitted much and very lame, and could not come to me (a Mile) but on Horse-back ; I ordered him gentle Jalap Purgatives, three a Week, at first, then twice, then once a Week as he mended, and directed him to take a large Handful of green Hemlock Leaves, bruised, put into an empty Firkin, and pour a Gallon or two of Water from a Smith's Forge scalding hot on them, then to  
put



put his Foot and Leg into it, (but not scalding) and to keep it in the Liquor Morning and Night a quarter of an Hour at a Time, as deep as the Vessel would admit his Leg ; then to take a fresh gathered Carrot, wash and rasp it, squeeze the Juice out with the Fingers, and warm the Raspings, and fill the Ulcer with it, quite down to the Bottom, and a little above the Surface of the Ulcer and Leg, with a dry Cloth over it, and to bind all on with a Rowler ; and repeat this Dressing after every Immersion, Morning and Night, as long as wanted ; and no other Dressing. This perfectly cured his Leg in ten Weeks, and filled the Ulcer with sound and good Flesh, and quite smooth. Note, No Vervain Root was used here ; *Quæst.* What did the cure, Hemlock or Carrot, or both ?

## C A S E XXVII.

A Gentleman who has distinguished himself by his ingenious Poems (was cured by me some Years since, of a stubborn Schrophula about the Neck) was pleased to compliment me with the following Epistle.

To

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To JOHN MORLEY, *Esq;* of  
Halsted.

S I R,

WHen'er I wrote was it to tell  
If this or that went ill or well;  
Was it of you to ask the same,  
In formal prose, my letter came;  
The stile was for the matter fit,  
And gravely dull whate'er was writ:  
But now (as whimsies in the head,  
To many a hair-brain'd scheme mislead,  
Which at there first appearance win us,)  
By love of novelty within us,  
I think this time 'twill read much sweeter,  
If my epistle run in metre;  
Which you may think, howe'er I vapour,  
Is wasting th' ink, and eke the paper.

Blest be the bard, and long his rest,  
Light lie the turf upon his breast;  
May future bards his praise rehearse,  
And deck his tomb with deathless verse,  
Who first in Hudibrastic measure,  
To please his ear, and pass his leisure,  
Exempt from care, with little pains,  
Pour'd plenteous forth his jocund strains.  
Here, whilst you smile, in vain I try,  
With him in sportive strain to vie;  
Or with that bard, Mat. Prior known,  
Who with thy grandfire rode to Down,  
And of whate'er they did or spoke,  
Of John's fly trick, or Matthew's joke,  
Left ought should to oblivion fall,  
Wrote the rare ballad of Down-Hall.



But not with this digressive Rhyme,  
 To waste your patience, and your time,  
 Let me enquire if health insures  
 Its blessings both to you and yours;  
 If these with other joys combine,  
 And Heav'n still smiles with eye benign,  
 For howsoe'er my thoughts may stray,  
 This is the chief I mean to say.

'Tis true, indeed, my mind inclines  
 To comment upon your designs;  
 Directed to no private end,  
 Except to make mankind your friend.  
 Which (whilst men worship sordid pelf,  
 And each but strives to serve himself)  
 Proves, by your leave, that your proceeding  
 Is not th'effect of right good breeding.  
 But should I now descant on these,  
 Perchance the subject would not please,  
 Lest then, this out of fashion merit,  
 With ev'ry virtue you inherit,  
 Should, if recited, give you pain,  
 'Tis doubtless better I refrain.

**A**S the foregoing Cases, and their Remedies are faithfully related, I recommend the farther Use (in similar Cases) of these safe, easy, and cheap Medicines, and Applications to such unprejudiced Persons as shall be inclined to use them, not in the least doubting the Benefit, that may accrue to the Diseased by a steady and regular Adherence to my Directions. I have had Thanks from many Persons, for the Benefit they have received, by my Essay being put into their Hands; and observing, and using the Directions therein, without my personal Knowledge or Assistance.

### C A S E XXVIII.

I shall give one Instance of this Truth, by the Letter following :

SIR,

I HAVE taken this Opportunity of writing to you in Behalf of your Medicines for the Evil. Whereas I, *John Buck*, late of *Hingham*, in *Norfolk*, aged 30 Years, now living at *Wymondham*, in the same County, was for 12 Years past violently afflicted with the King's Evil in my right Knee, and so bad, that I could not stir without the help of Crutches, and having been with the most eminent Surgeons in the County of *Norfolk*,  
but



but all to little Purpose, for they always counted it a White Swelling, and was clearly for taking off the Limb ; for they told me that there was no Help for me. But Thanks be to God !—for with his Blessing, and with the Use of your Medicines, I am now right well, and can walk well, and can follow my Business and do my Work without any Pain or Sorrow, and am in as good a State of Health as ever I was in my Life Sir, if it be agreeable to you, I should like that it might be added into the Book, as it was accounted as surprizing a Cure as ever was performed, I only go a little limping, but 'tis as little as possible, as witness my hand,

JOHN BUCK, *Worsted-Weaver.*

December 24, 1769.

Some time after receiving this Letter, I wrote to *John Buck*, to know which of the Medicines he used, and in what Manner, and in what Time the Cure was effected, and what Surgeons had seen the Complaint, and said it was incurable, and where for taking off the Limb ? As I had never seen or heard of *John Buck* before, I desired a Gentleman near *Wymondham* to enquire of the Truth of the Facts. He saw the Man himself ; who gave him full Satisfaction as to

to his Case and Cure. A Neighbour from the same Town brought me a Letter from him, in Answer to my Enquiries, as follows :

Sir, my Duty to you. I, *John Buck*, Worsted-Weaver, of *Wymondham* in *Norfolk*, aged 30 Years, was for 12 Years afflicted with the Evil on my right Knee, which for the first four Years would swell to a large Substance, and disperse again of its own Self, then having a violent Fever of nine Weeks, which so contracted the Joint and wasted my Leg and Thigh, that I was unable to walk without great Pain. I was advised to apply to Surgeon *Swift* of *Norwich*, and accordingly did, who told me it was a White Swelling, and it was incurable, and the less that I did to it the better. About one Year after I was advised to go to Dr. *Heald* of *Norwich*, who told me the same as Doctor *Swift*. Two Years after comes a travelling Doctor to *Norwich*, who went by the name of Dr. *Vernice*. He having such Praise, I was recommended to him. He told me it was a White Swelling, and in two Months he could make a perfect Cure of me. I put myself under his Directions, but all to little Purpose. About a Year after I was seized with such a violent Pain on the Inside of my Knee, that it caused my Leg, Thigh, and Foot, to swell  
in





infusion of Green Hemlock, to wash it with twice a Day; then bathed my Knee all over with Vervain Ointment; then I applied dry Lint, and left it should stick, a Plaster of Elder Ointment over it. In two Months I found great Benefit, and in eight Months the Sore was healed. Have had no Return, now three Years ago.

I hope the foregoing Case is sufficiently authenticated by all the Surgeons therein mentioned, and the Cure attested under the Man's own Hand, being well known to all his Neighbourhood, and who, I believe, will give any Gentleman entire Satisfaction, as to the Method of his Cure. I am very sorry so many Limbs have been cut off, which might have been saved; some Surgeons being for such hasty Amputations, not considering a Limb once off, is never to be replaced, and what a poor labouring Man and his Family must suffer, for want of so useful a Member as a Leg or Arm, to procure a comfortable Subsistence; the Loss of which can never be repaired, or sufficiently lamented. Some Legs and Arms, condemned to be cut off, I have preserved, as the living Persons are sufficient Witnesses, who have put themselves (for a proper Time) under my Directions, of which I can satisfy any curious Enquirer. To enumerate Instances in this Essay would swell it beyond the Reach of the common People's



People's Pockets, which would frustrate my Intention of being serviceable to the Poor: Let the Rich advise with the Gentlemen, whose Business it properly belongs to, I desire to hinder no Man in his Profession. When they have done with them, or their Patients tired with their Treatment, some Times a Rich Patient drops to my Share, and often meets with surprizing Help. But if the Knife or Caustic has made Cripples, I cannot mend them. I have had Cases and Recommendations from almost a hundred Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries.—Some for their own Children, when their own Endeavours have proved abortive.—Some to get rid of the Importunities of poor Patients, who could pay nothing.—Some to see my Methods, and some they send to me to secure their own Credit, lest they should miscarry under their Hands. So many of the better Sort desire Secrecy, (which I always observe, if requested,) that the Public are deprived knowing of many remarkable Cases and Cures, which would have given more Satisfaction than I am at Liberty to do; nay, I am cautious of asking how such a Person does, from any of their Neighbours, to prevent any Suspicion of their having consulted me; so fearful are they of their Disorders being known, that I labour under great Disadvantages on that Account. Another Misfortune is, many of my Patients

living at such great Distances, I seldom see them above once, or it may be twice ; so that I am deprived of altering my method, if the Disorder should take a new Turn, or new Complaints arise, which some Times is the Case ; so that such poor Sufferers are deprived of any further Assistance from me, for want of further personal Attendance. Do not the Physicians and Surgeons find it necessary to see their Patients frequently ? This is some Times absolutely necessary to complete a Cure, and what I am often deprived of.

Amongst the Number of Cases now by me (which are between two and three Thousand) are some of Scrophulated Breasts (by Surgeons generally called Cancers) and determined to be cut off, but are happily well, or in a fair way of being so. I do not pretend to cure all that apply to me ; that would be absurd indeed : No, but I have been so fortunate as to cure some, given over by regular Practitioners, and recommended by them, to my Care. One Instance amongst others, as follows :



## C A S E XXIX.

Mrs. *Brown*, Wife of Mr. *Brown*, at the *Cock*, in *Clare*, in *Suffolk*, brought me the under-written.

S I R,

MRS. BROWN, the Bearer hereof, hath for some Months laboured under a Disease in her Breast, which the Surgeons term a Schirrhus. Various Applications have been tried, and many Medicines taken, which have only served to alleviate her Complaints, without laying a Foundation for healing. This Disease hath so near an Affinity with the Evil, that I do not think but it may be really called such. I wish you may be so fortunate as to direct somewhat that may be serviceable; and am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

Surgeon in *Cavendish*,

*Aug. 23, 1761.*

R I C H A R D H A W E S.

Mrs. *Brown* was a fat lusty Woman; aged 27. About a Year since a large Tumor rose in her right Breast, and gathered in nine several Places, opened, dressed, and tented by the Surgeon, and discharged much;

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but that being thought insufficient to lessen the Breast, two Setons were made quite through the Breast (which was very large) close to the Ribs, in the Form of a Cross, and as the Silk rotted away (by the Virulence of the Matter) in eight or ten Days, more Silk was put in. Four Surgeons met to take off the Breast, and told her, if it was not taken off, she could not live to *Michaelmas* following; that her breast would rot off in a Week or two, if not cut off. This was the State of the Breast, when I undertook it. The 30th of *November* following, I saw Mrs. *Brown*: all the Ulcers were healed, and the Breast firm, and herself in good Health and Spirits, without any Complaint whatever. *February* 27, 1762, she was with me again, and shewed me her right Breast, sound and firm, but told me, that about three Weeks before, on taking cold, she felt a dashing Pain in her left Breast, which she shewed me; there was a smooth soft Tumour rising on the upper Part, above the Nipple, which had increased fast, with some dashing Pains. I ordered her proper Remedies for this new Complaint. *April* the 4th, her Husband came to tell me, the Tumour was broke and discharged in several Places round the Nipple. I directed accordingly, and *September* the 6th following her Husband came again, and told me, her breast had been quite well two Months past, and his Wife in good Health  
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and Spirits ; no Complaint at all ; and that the Day before he came, she was delivered of a fine Girl, and both like to do very well. I saw her some Days after, examined her right Breast which had lost the Nipple, all continued firm and well ; and also her left Breast, but she had no Milk in it but no Complaint whatever. Mrs. *Brown* had Twins in a Year after, and has had several more Children ; both Breasts continue well and firm, and the last Lying-inn she had Milk came into her left Breast ; which I think very extraordinary. It is easy to observe from this Case, that taking off Mrs. *Brown*'s right Breast would have availed nothing ; from the left Breast being disordered in the same manner : which plainly shews that amputating Limbs or Members, are of little Service without the Constitution is amended ; and then there is seldom any Occasion for the Knife at all. I have not mentioned the Methods I used in Mrs. *Brown*'s Case, because they are beyond the Management of the Vulgar. I shall mention the two following Cases, to shew that no Age is exempt from this dreadful Disorder.

### C A S E XXX.

*Samuel Pain* Son of *Samuel Pain*, Weaver in *Clare* aforelaid, was brought to me in the Month it was born ; with a large Ulcer

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on the Back of its left Hand, was judged to be the King's Evil, by Mr. Young, a Surgeon of that Place, and by him recommended to my Care; this infant was cured with a Root, some Vervain Water to cleanse the Sores, and Vervain Ointment on a rag to the place. The Father sent me a Letter of Thanks for making (as he expresses it) a safe Cure of his Child's Hand. It is evident from this Case, that very simple gentle Methods are often very efficacious, if used in the Infancy of this Disease.

#### C A S E XXXI.

The next Case is of *George Hogerall*, aged 88. He was formerly an Under-Gardener to 'Squire *Honywood* in *Essex*, but discharged some Years since. He was a fresh coloured, healthy-looking Man of his Years, as I have seen; has been so remarkably healthful all his Life, as never to take one Dose of Physic. In the 86<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age, the Sight of both Eyes left him at once; since which he has had several small Scrophulous Tumors, broke on each Side his Neck, and discharged much, and seemed to be well digested. His Wife was with him (they had been married fifty Years) and confirmed the Account of his Health. I gave him my Assistance, and ordered him to call on me when he came this Way again. Who could ever have thought, that  
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the King's Evil should lie dormant so long in the Constitution of such a healthy Person, without the least Symptoms, until the Age of Eighty-seven Years, and then appear in its genuine Form? From these two Instances it is very apparent, that no Age is exempt from its cruel Ravages.

To illustrate this still more, I have subjoined an Account of Two Thousand Scrophulous Patients, following each other as they applied to me, which is as under, *viz.*

	Males	Females	together
Patients under 5 Years old —	77	89	166
From 5 Years to 10 Years —	108	117	225
From 10 Years to 20 Years —	212	309	521
From 20 Years to 30 Years —	166	285	451
From 30 Years to 40 Years —	96	200	296
From 40 Years to 50 Years —	60	143	203
From 50 Years to 60 Years —	37	63	100
From 60 Years to 70 Years —	17	13	30
From 70 Years to 80 Years —	2	5	7
From 80 Years and upwards—	1	0	1
	<hr/> 776 <hr/>	<hr/> 1224 <hr/>	<hr/> 2000 <hr/>
		<hr/> 776 <hr/>	
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This shews the different Ages and Sexes, of such unhappy Sufferers; and that the Females exceed the Males, in Proportion as three to two: this Account plainly confutes, what some Gentlemen of the Faculty have advanced in their Writings, *viz.* That Persons above forty Years of Age, are rarely  
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(if ever) affected by the Scrophula. And this confutes the too common opinion, of Childrens out growing the Disorder, which has been the ruin of many young People, by not taking proper Care in Time, until the Disease has got too firm rooting, ever to be eradicated, (or even palliated) without the greatest care and perseverance.

I have had Application by Letter from many persons, desiring me to send my Medicines and Directions, and my Charges, for them, for which I should be punctually paid. To all which I answer, that I cannot comply with their Requests, without first seeing and examining the Patients themselves, because there are so great a Variety of Symptoms, and Questions proper to be asked relative thereto (which no Letter can inform me of) that I can be no Judge of the Case, without a personal Inspection and Conference, and consequently, it is prescribing blindfold for a Malady that is not to be treated in such a superficial Manner. Many People fancy, if I send them a Vervain Root, and order a little Physic, it will cure all the Complaints, Symptoms and Appearances of this Disorder, not considering that such various Symptoms, Constitutions, and the different Parts affected, and its intimate Connections with other Diseases, require very differently appropriated Medicines and Applications, according to the Nature of the Case and its Combinations.

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Many of the common People look on the Vervain Root as a Charm, because they cannot apprehend its occult Qualities: And the learned Gentlemen of the Faculty some Times smile on the Root; others cast a Sneer at it; and many say that it can do no Harm. To these worthy Persons I would recommend the serious Perusal of Mr. *Boyle's* Essays of the strange Subtlety of Effluvia, and of the Reconcilableness of Specifick Medicines to the Corpuscular Philosophy, and of the Advantages of using simple Medicines: They may then possibly have more favourable Sentiments on the Use of such Appensa's, when they have well weighed the Great Mr. *Boyle's* Reasoning on the Subject.

I shall only further add a few Observations on this Disorder: I have had many Persons that have been salivated, and taken many mercurial Preparations to very little Purpose: they are generally hurtful, and not seldom dangerous. I have found Salt Water taken inwardly to have had bad Effects; outwardly it often dries up the Sores for a Time, which generally break out again near the same Places, and will continue to do so, unless the Habit of Body is altered. I very rarely order Bleeding, and never direct Vomits, which I think of no Use. Issues or Setons I do not approve, and generally dry them up, as they are apt to draw  
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the Humours into, and inflame them, and are troublesome, without any Assistance towards the Cure, as I could ever observe. I do not order Salts of any Kind for physical Purgation, but always the most mild and gentle Directions for that End. Hemlock I have used outwardly numberless Times, with great Success, I administer little inwardly; if any Tumours, &c. are near the Head, it must then be used with Caution as in Case IV. I never use Knife or Caustic to open an Abscess, never more than the Point of a Lancet, and that but seldom, for I find proper Pultices much more eligible on many Accounts, too long here to enumerate. I advise all People who are costive under this Disorder, (which is a very frequent Complaint) to keep the Body always soluble with very mild and gentle Purgatives; a little at a Time and often, is much more beneficial than strong Purges and seldom.—Where I order Antimony to be taken inwardly, I always direct it, to be finely levigated, or else powdered in an Iron Mortar, as fine as possible, and then sifted through a Piece of fine Lawn or Muslin, that, few or no shining Particles appear, then it is a fine and safe medicine.—Never to wear any Covering over the Eyes, but wash them often with cold Spring Water, which will strengthen them and repel the Humour, and the Purgatives will carry it off. These few Hints, I thought proper



proper to add, to let People know, that it is gentle easy Methods, and not rough Prescriptions and painful Applications, that are most efficacious in this obstinate Disorder. Persons, though ever so poor and distressed, are welcome to consult me, for further Advice, if they find or even but suspect themselves to be tainted with this Disorder; on any Morning (Sundays excepted) for I refuse no Body (if I am well.) As I am often sent for many Miles to give my Advice to those, who are unable, or unwilling to come to *Halsted* to me; I visit, any Persons of Credit and Reputation, at *London*, or within an Hundred Miles of it, if they send, or order, a Carriage for me, and pay all my Expences on the Road, out and Home; giving me a few Days Notice.

I have had many Guineas offered me, but never took one Shilling. Sometimes, indeed, neighbouring Gentlemen and Ladies have given me small Acknowledgements of Tea, Wine, Venison, &c. and when at a distance, small Pieces of Plate, or other Presents, have been sent by genteel Persons.

I should not have said thus much, but I find some Gentlemen have expressed themselves at a Loss (as I take no Money) how to make me a Recompence for my Trouble; others, fearing I should afterwards make a large Demand for my Assistance, have

have been deterred from consulting me ; but I have no such lucrative Views ; only the Good of my Fellow-Creatures at Heart.

Nobody can be so mean and unreasonable, as to expect, I should be Money out of Pocket for their Service, therefore I desire all Letters to me, to be Post-paid.

The Pleasure I take in relieving the Afflicted of my own Species, affords me the highest Content and Satisfaction ; always bearing in Mind St. Paul's Precept, *Not to be overcome of Evil, but, to overcome Evil with Good.*

May all my Patients who receive any Benefit from this Essay, or my own personal Directions, say with the Royal Psalmist—*Bless the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits. Who forgiveth all thine Iniquities : Who healeth all thy DISEASES.*

F I N I S.





